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CLASSIFICATION SECRETSECURITY INFORMATION
REPORTCOUNTRY East GermanyTOPIC Military Information from the Kindel-Ohrdruf Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED 3 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 10 October 1953, [] several loadings in Eisenach and the loading of one shipment in Mechterstedt. Between 10 and 13 October, no troops coming from the direction of the Kindel training grounds were entrained in Eisenach.
2. On 13 October, the two camps at the Kindel troop training grounds were still occupied. [] the occupation had decreased about 50X1-HUM 25 percent. The roads through the training grounds were blocked as previously.¹

3. On 13 October, [] a new tank shed about 200 meters north of Point 299.4, north of Ettenhausen. 50X1-HUM

4. Between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on 10 October, 19 T-34/85 tanks [] 50X1-HUM 3 canvas-covered SP guns, trucks [] loaded with boxes, and 3 tank trucks [] were entrained at the Eisenach railroad station and left toward Weissenfels at about 10 a.m. 50X1-HUM

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5. On 8 October, 10 trucks carrying billeting equipment and baggage [] passed through Mechterstedt, coming from the direction of Eisenach and proceeding toward Gotha. On 9 October, about 20 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, 10 trucks [] and 4 rocket launchers [] and about 150 ammunition boxes were entrained at the Mechterstedt railroad station.¹ At about 3 p.m. on 9 October, a column of 60 trucks towing 20 x 76-mm AT guns and 10 x 76-mm field guns and occupied by a total of 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia: 3 radio trucks, 2 jeeps, 1 ambulance and 1 tank truck []

[] was seen en route toward the training area near Gotha, coming from the direction of Langensalza. At the same time, about 100 trucks, about 1,000 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, numerous machine guns and light AT guns were seen at the edge of the training area and 2 AA machine guns on tripods were seen in a clearing.

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6. On 2 October, [] advancing troops in the Ettenhausen-Ebenheim, Weingarten-Teutleben-Froettstedt-Walthershausen-Mechterstedt area. []

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[redacted] the exercise extended as far as Chrdruf. On 2 October, 10 x 132-mm rocket launchers, 13 SU-100 guns, 9 x 100-mm AT guns towed by prime movers, which were occupied by each 6 to 8 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets; 7 x 76-mm field guns towed by three-axle trucks, 12 SU-76 guns, 14 T-34/85 tanks, 17 T-34 tanks, 4 x 25-mm AA guns towed by trucks, 5 x 82-mm mortars, 7 x 120-mm mortars, 6 x 160-mm mortars and 9 field kitchens were observed.

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Between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on 2 October, 9 twin-engine aircraft, painted grey-green and flying in a formation of three wedges, were repeatedly seen over the training area at an altitude between 200 and 500 meters. [redacted]

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[redacted] the aircraft supported ground forces involved in the exercise. Aircraft [redacted] believed [redacted] jet planes, were observed at a high altitude. On the day of observation, [redacted] a radar set, the parabolic reflector of which was directed toward Inselsberg, over which aircraft were flying. Six to eight soldiers were seen with the radar set. Three radio stations with rod antennas were 300 to 500 meters from the radar station. 4 Troops and material loaded at the Eisenach freight station and leaving toward Gotha between 7 and 10 October included:

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7 October. Two shipments of a total of 23 boxcars carrying billeting equipment and straw mattresses and each occupied by about 20 troops wearing slack-bordered crimson, red-bordered black, slack-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets; and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying prime movers towing 20 x 10-mm AT guns; and sedans and trucks [redacted]

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Sedan [redacted] occupied by a general, was seen during the loading.

8 October. Between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets on 12 boxcars and 10 T-34 tanks, trucks [redacted] and sedans [redacted]

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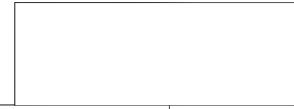
At about 10 a.m., amphibious vehicles [redacted] wooden pontoons, 25 iron drums, about 2.5 meters long and 1 to 1.2 meters in diameter; logs, beams and boards; sedans and trucks [redacted] on 14 boxcars and numerous flatcars:

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9 October. Between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., 1 T-34 tank and numerous trucks,

[redacted] on 18 boxcars and numerous flatcars.

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10 October. At about 6 a.m., billeting equipment, straw mattresses and each about 20 troops wearing red-bordered black, black-bordered crimson and black-bordered black epaulets on 29 boxcars and 6 x 57-mm AA guns, 5 x 25-mm AA guns, sedans and trucks

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Between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m., 4 SU-76 guns, including [redacted] 22; 8 SU-100 guns, [redacted] 7 T-34 tanks, [redacted] 1 T-34 radio tank, 10 trucks and 1 sedan, [redacted] on 13 closed railroad cars and numerous flatcars.

7. No loadings were observed at the Eisenach freight station after 10 October.

3. [redacted] after 19 October, Highway No 34 between Grossbehringen and Grossenlughnitz would no longer be blocked for civilian traffic.⁵

1. Comment. [redacted]

[redacted] the bulk of the XXIX Gds Ktz Rifle Corps participated in the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army in the Jena-Ohrdruf area.

2. Comment. The same tanks of the 57th Gds Ktz Rifle Div, along with trucks [redacted] were observed in the Weimar area.

3. Comment. The column probably involved elements of the 123th Gds Gun Arty Regt of the 57th Gds Ktz Rifle Div.

4. Comment. The exercises were not connected with the maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army, as the latter started only about 10 October.

5. Comment. The information tends to indicate that the bulk of the troops returned to the posts from the maneuver area.

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